

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS  
RENDERED BY THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

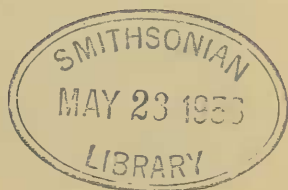
*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**  
Secretary to the Commission

**VOLUME 12. Part 9. Pp. 251—264**

**OPINION 388**

Suppression under the Plenary Powers of the generic name  
*Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863, for the purpose of providing  
a firm basis for the use of the generic name *Chaetopsylla*  
Kohaut, 1903 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera)



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 388

### A. The Officers of the Commission

*Honorary Life President* : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts., England*)

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*Vice-President* : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*) (12th August 1953)

*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*) (27th July 1948)

### B. The Members of the Commission

(*Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*)

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Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (27th July 1948) (*Secretary*)

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Mr. P. C. SYLVESTER-BRADLEY (*Sheffield University, Sheffield, England*) (12th August 1953)

Dr. L. B. HOLTHUIS (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (12th August 1953)

SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE  
 GENERIC NAME "TRICHOPSYLLA" KOLENATI, 1863,  
 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A FIRM  
 BASIS FOR THE USE OF THE GENERIC NAME  
 "CHAETOPSYLLA" KOHAUT, 1903 (CLASS  
 INSECTA, ORDER SIPHONAPTERA)

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers the generic name *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 980 to 982 respectively :—

- (a) *Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by da Cunha (1914) : *Chaetopsylla rothschildi* Kohaut, 1903) ;
- (b) *Malaraeus* Jordan, 1933 (gender : masculine) (type species, by original designation : *Ceratophyllus telchinum* Rothschild, 1905) ;
- (c) *Amalaraeus* Ioff, 1936 (gender : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Pulex penicilliger* Grube, 1852) (for use by those specialists who consider *Pulex penicilliger* Grube to be generically or sub-generically distinct from *Ceratophyllus telchinum* Rothschild, the type species of *Malaraeus* Jordan, 1933).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 680 to 683 respectively :—

- (a) *penicilliger* Grube, 1852, as published in the combination *Pulex penicilliger* and as determined as being applicable only to the male component of the foregoing composite nominal species by

Wagner (1898 *Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* 31 : 569, pl. 8, fig. 6) (specific name of type species of *Amalaraeus* Ioff, 1936) ;

- (b) *rothschildi* Kohaut, 1903, as published in the combination *Chaetopsylla rothschildi* (specific name of type species of *Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903) ;
- (c) *sibirica* Wagner, 1898, as published in the combination *Ctenopsylla sibirica* and as defined by Wagner (1898, *loc. cit.* 31 : 578) as being applicable only to the female component of the composite nominal species *Pulex penicilliger* Grube, 1852) ;
- (d) *telchinum* Rothschild, 1905, as published in the combination *Ceratophyllus telchinum* (specific name of type species of *Malariaeus* Jordan, 1933).

(4) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 404 to 406 respectively :—

- (a) *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) above ;
- (b) *Trichopsylla* Jordan & Rothschild, 1920 (a junior homonym of *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863) ;
- (c) *Trichopsylla* Ewing & Fox, 1943 (a junior homonym of *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863).

(5) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 260 :—*penicilliger* Kolenati, 1863, as published in the combination *Trichopsylla penicilliger* (a reputed but non-existent name, being no more than a misapplication of the specific name *penicilliger* Grube, 1852, as published in the combination *Pulex penicilliger*).

## I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 21st February 1952, Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England*) submitted the following application to the Commission for the use of its Plenary Powers for the purpose of putting an end to a long-standing difficulty arising from the interpretation of the generic name *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera) :—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name  
“*Trichopsylla*” Kolenati, 1863 (Class Insecta, Order Siphon-  
aptera) for the purposes of Article 25 but not for those of  
Article 34**

By G. H. E. HOPKINS, O.B.E., M.A.

(*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.*)

The object of this application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to terminate a long-standing and still unsettled controversy of considerable complication.

2. Grube (1852, *Middendorff's sibirische Reise* 2 (Theil 1) : 500, pl. 22, figs. 7, 9) described and figured a male and a female flea (“auf *Mustela Sibirica*, bei Turuchansk”), to which he gave the name *Pulex penicilliger*. His description is long and careful, and although it is now known that the male and female that he described are not conspecific (or even congeneric), the drawings of both are very good, considering the date, and show the presence of a conspicuous pronotal comb, which is also mentioned prominently in the description.

3. Kolenati (1863, *Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* 2 : 32) described a genus *Trichopsylla* containing several species, of which one that he called *Trichopsylla penicilliger* Grube is the first mentioned by him. It is obvious and generally accepted that this species is not *Pulex penicilliger* Grube, 1852, since one of the main characters of Kolenati's genus is “weder Kopf noch Rückenendenien” and Kolenati's figure (pl. 1, fig. 3) of the species that he called *Trichopsylla penicilliger* Grube, although remarkably bad, shows clearly the absence of any pronotal comb. It is also generally accepted that Kolenati cannot possibly

have seen Grube's work and that he must have assumed his specimens to be *Pulex penicilliger* Grube mainly because his material, like Grube's, was obtained from species of the family MUSTELIDAE\*.

4. Wagner (1898, *Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* 31 : 569, pl. 8, fig. 6), after examining Grube's syntypes, selected the male to represent the nominal species *Pulex penicilliger* Grube, and referred it to the genus *Ceratophyllus*. At the same time he described the female (: 578, pl. 8, figs. 13, 14) as *Ctenopsylla sibirica*. *Pulex penicilliger* Grube, 1852, thus defined, became (by monotypy) the type species of the subgenus *Amalaraeus* Ioff, 1936 (*Z. Parasitenk.* 9 : 98), described as a section of the genus *Malariaeus* Jordan, 1933 (*Novit. zool.* 39 : 76), which Ioff regarded as a subgenus of the genus *Ceratophyllus* Curtis, 1832. *Ctenopsylla sibirica* Wagner, 1898 (i.e. the species that Grube erroneously described as the female of *Pulex penicilliger*) is now referred by all workers on fleas to the genus *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909 (*Bull. Mus. Caucase* 4 : 196, 201). There is disagreement as to whether *Malariaeus* and *Amalaraeus* are taxonomically distinct.

5. Baker (1904, *Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* 27 : 371) mentioned "*Trichopsylla Kolenati* 1863 ; type *penicilliger* [sic] Grube" as a synonym of *Ceratophyllus* Curtis, 1832. This is the first selection of a type species for *Trichopsylla*.

6. Kohaut (1903, *Allatt. Közlem.* 2 : 37) described the genus *Chaetopsylla* to include several species, of which one (*C. rothschildi* Kohaut, 1903 : 40, pl. 4, figs. 7—9, pl. 5, figs. 3, 5, 6) was selected as type species by da Cunha (1914, *Contrib. Estudo Sifonapteros Brasil* : 105).

7. Jordan and Rothschild (1920, *Ectoparasites* 1 : 63) noted that Kolenati's "*penicilliger* has no pronotal comb and therefore is not *penicilliger* Grube ; from the description of the genus and the species it is evident that the species erroneously identified as *penicilliger* is a *Vermipsylla*. Baker (1904) selected this *penicilliger* Kolen. nec Grube (err. determ.) as type of *Trichopsylla*, and we now identify the type-species with *Vermipsylla homoeus* Roths. (1907)". It is important to note that this was written at a time when Jordan and Rothschild did not consider *Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903, to be taxonomically distinct from *Vermipsylla* Schimkewitsch, 1885, and that the species

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\* Kolenati may also have relied on the name "*penicilliger*", but it is obvious both from Grube's clear description and from his figures that the "*penicillum*" or "*Büschel*" from which he derived the name is the tuft of antepygidial bristles, which he described perfectly correctly as on the seventh abdominal tergum, whereas Kolenati's flea has the tuft in an entirely different position ("am After ein mittlerer und ein unterer kürzerer Borstenpinsel") and neither his description nor his drawing suggests the presence of antepygidial bristles.

with which they identified the material that Kolenati misdetermined is now usually known as *Chaetopsylla homoea* (Rothschild), 1906 (*Ent. mon. Mag.* 42 : 222).<sup>†</sup>

8. This action of Jordan and Rothschild never achieved general acceptance, though it came near to it at one time. In particular it was opposed by Wagner (1933, *Konowia* 12 : 91, and other papers), though on somewhat self-contradictory grounds. Although he quoted with approval some remarks of Dampf (1926, *Ent. Mitt.* 15 : 379) to the effect that Kolenati must have intended Grube's species and not the misdetermined material before him,\* yet neither Wagner nor Dampf took the step that should logically follow if this argument were correct, both of them rejecting the name *Trichopsylla* Kolenati instead of applying it to the genus to which *Pulex penicilliger* Grube belongs. Moreover, Wagner proceeded to devote a considerable part of his note on *Trichopsylla* to the argument that Kolenati considered the species described by him as *Trichopsylla penicilliger* Grube to be the type species of *Trichopsylla* and to the difficulty or impossibility of identifying this species. Kolenati's specimens of the species are lost, and Hopkins (1950, *Entomologist* 83 : 31—33) after reconsideration of Kolenati's descriptions and drawing, came to the conclusion that, although Wagner's suggestion that Kolenati's specimens may have been *Pulex irritans* Linnaeus, 1758, is not altogether improbable, it is absolutely impossible to be certain to what genus they belonged.

9. Ewing and Fox, 1943 ("Fleas of N. America", *Misc. Publ. U.S. Dep. Agric.* 500 : 55), remarking that they "recognise the first designation of the type species of *Trichopsylla* by Baker in 1904 as valid under the International Rules", described as *Trichopsylla* Kolenati a group which includes *Malariae* Jordan and some other CERATOPHYLLIDAE. Hopkins, 1948 (*Entomologist* 81 : 168, 169) argued strongly that the type species that Baker selected could not be *Pulex penicilliger* Grube, since this species was not mentioned by Kolenati, but was necessarily *Trichopsylla penicilliger* "Grube" Kolenati, 1863 (*nec* Grube, 1852).

10. There is now complete chaos as to the use of the name *Trichopsylla*. Ewing and Fox have had few followers, the absurdity of accepting as the type species of the genus a species which is clearly excluded from it even by Kolenati's extremely inadequate description being obvious to most workers on fleas ; these authors' use of the name was

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\* Had Dampf seen both Kolenati's and Grube's descriptions? If he had, it becomes difficult to understand how he could argue that Kolenati intended to place a species with a conspicuous pronotal comb in a genus of which an important character was the absence of such a comb.

accepted by Costa Lima and Hathaway (1946, *Pulgas, bibliografia, catalogo e animais por elas sugados* : 295) but has been rejected by all the principal writers on Siphonaptera. There is a more even division between the two other points of view : as a general rule, authors who write in English have followed Jordan and Rothschild by using *Trichopsylla* for the genus to which *Vermipsylla homoeus* Rothschild, 1906, belongs, whereas those who write in German or Russian follow Dampf and Wagner in calling this genus *Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903, and rejecting *Trichopsylla*. Principally because the great majority of the species of this genus occur in the territories of the U.S.S.R., there is no doubt that the writers who reject *Trichopsylla* are in the majority and that the suppression of the name would be far more likely to produce uniformity than would any other solution of the problem. Moreover, this solution seems to be that most in accord with the spirit of the *Régles* ; apart from the obvious absurdity of regarding as the type species of the genus *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863, a species (*Pulex penicilliger* Grube, 1852) that is excluded from it by Kolenati's generic description, the universally accepted fact that Kolenati's material was misdetermined means that *Pulex penicilliger* Grube was not mentioned in the original description of *Trichopsylla*, and therefore is not available as the type species. On the other hand, there is no agreement (nor is there likely to be any agreement in the future) as to the generic position of the *Trichopsylla penicilliger* of Kolenati, 1863, his description and figure being so bad that it is impossible to refer the insect even to a modern family of Siphonaptera with any confidence, and his specimens being lost. Dr. K. Jordan, one of the authors responsible for bringing *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863, into use as a substitute for *Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903, and hitherto the principal supporter of this use of the name *Trichopsylla*, allows me to state that he associates himself with my request that the name should be suppressed.

11. In order to terminate the existing state of chaos with regard to the correct application of the generic name *Trichopsylla*, I now ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

- (1) to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned generic or subgeneric names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection of da Cunha, 1914 : *Chaetopsylla rothschildi* Kohaut, 1903) ;



- (b) *Malaraeus* Jordan, 1933 (gender : masculine) (type species, by original designation : *Ceratophyllus telchinum* Rothschild, 1905, *Novit. zool.* **12** : 153, pl. 8, fig. 21) ;
- (c) *Amalaraeus* Ioff, 1936 (gender : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Pulex penicilliger* Grube, 1852) (for use by workers who consider *Amalaraeus* Ioff, 1936, taxonomically distinct from *Malaraeus* Jordan, 1933) ;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *penicilliger* Grube, 1852, as published in the combination *Pulex penicilliger* (as restricted to the male component of that composite nominal species by Wagner, 1898, p. 569, pl. 8, fig. 6) (trivial name of type species of *Amalaraeus* Ioff, 1936) ;
- (b) *rothschildi* Kohaut, 1903, as published in the combination *Chaetopsylla rothschildi* (trivial name of type species of *Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903) ;
- (c) *sibirica* Wagner, 1898, as published in the combination *Ctenopsylla sibirica* (as defined by Wagner as being applicable only to the female component of the composite nominal species *Pulex penicilliger* Grube, 1852) ;
- (d) *telchinum* Rothschild, 1905, as published in the combination *Ceratophyllus telchinum* (trivial name of type species of *Malaraeus* Jordan, 1933) ;
- (4) to place the under-mentioned names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863 (as proposed, under (1) above, to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers) ;
- (b) *Trichopsylla* Jordan and Rothschild, 1920 (a junior homonym of *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863) ;
- (c) *Trichopsylla* Ewing and Fox, 1943 (a junior homonym of *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863) ;
- (5) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the reputed but non-existent name *penicilliger* Kolenati, 1863, as published in the combination *Trichopsylla penicilliger* (a misapplication of the trivial name *penicilliger* Grube, 1852, as published in the combination *Pulex penicilliger*).

## II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

**2. Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Mr. Hopkins' application, the question of the possible use of the Commission's Plenary Powers for the purpose of suppressing the generic name *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 654.

**3. Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 13th May 1952 and was published on 29th August of that year in Part 11 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Hopkins, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 349—352).

**4. Issue of Public Notices :** In accordance with the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 29th August 1952 (a) in Part 11 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Mr. Hopkins' application was published), and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given also to certain general zoological serial publications and also to a number of entomological serials in Europe and America.

**5. Comment received :** The only comment received in the present case came from Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.*), one of the two specialists who had originally brought forward the name *Trichopsylla* Kolenati in place of *Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903, who, as noted in paragraph 10 of the present application, signified his desire to support the proposal that the name *Trichopsylla* Kolenati should be suppressed under the Plenary Powers in the interests of nomenclatorial stability. No objection to the action proposed in this case was received from any source.

### III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)52 :** On 5th April 1954, a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)52) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal for the suppression of the name *Trichopsylla Kolenati*, 1863, as specified in Points (1) to (5) in paragraph 11 on pages 351 and 352 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in paragraph 11 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**7. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 5th July 1954.

**8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)52 :** At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)52 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following nineteen (19) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Bonnet ; Hering ; Vokes ; Riley ; Esaki ;  
Jaczewski ; Dymond ; Boschma ; Lemche ; Hankó ;  
do Amaral ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Pearson ; Hemming ;  
Cabrera ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Stoll ; Mertens ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned* :

None.

**9. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 7th July 1954, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P. (54)52, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" :** On 14th August 1955, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)52.

**11. Original References :** The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

*Amalaraeus* Ioff, 1936, *Z. Parasitenk.* **9** : 98

*Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903, *Allatt. Közlem.* **2** : 37

*Malaraeus* Jordan, 1933, *Novit. zool.* **39** : 76

*penicilliger*, *Pulex*, Grube, 1852, *Middendorff's sibirische Reise*  
**2** (Theil 1) : 500, pl. 22, figs. 7, 9

*penicilliger*, *Trichopsylla*, Kolenati, 1863, *Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* **2** :  
32 (attributed by Kolenati to Grube)

*rothschildi*, *Chaetopsylla*, Kohaut, 1903, *Allatt. Közlem.* **2** : 40,  
pl. 4, figs. 7—9, pl. 5, figs. 3, 5, 6

*sibirica*, *Ctenopsylla*, Wagner, 1898, *Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* **31** : 578,  
pl. 8, figs. 13, 14 (*nom. nov. pro* the female component of  
the composite nominal species *Pulex penicilliger* Grube, 1852)

*telchinum*, *Ceratophyllus*, Rothschild, 1905, *Novit. zool.* **12** : 153,  
pl. 8, fig. 21

*Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863, *Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* **2** : 32

*Trichopsylla* Jordan & Rothschild, 1920, *Ectoparasites* **1** : 63

*Trichopsylla* Ewing & Fox, 1943, *Misc. Publ. U.S. Dep. Agric.*  
**500** : 55

**12.** The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for the genus *Chaetopsylla* Kohaut, 1903, specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—da Cunha, 1914, *Contrib. Estudo Sifanopteros Brasil* : 105.

**13. Family-Group-Name Aspect** : Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins, the applicant in the present case, has informed the Commission that to the best of his knowledge none of the generic names dealt with in the present *Opinion* has been taken as the base for the name of a taxon of family-group rank and therefore that in this case no family-group-name problem arises for consideration.

**14.** At the time of the submission of the present application the name applicable to the second portion of a binomen was "trivial name". This was altered to "specific name" by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, which at the same time made corresponding changes in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of names of this category. These changes in terminology have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

**15.** The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

16. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Eighty-Eight (388) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fourteenth day of August, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**